

Application No.: 10/571,665
Amendment and Response dated April 8, 2008
Reply to Office Action of December 14, 2007
Docket No.: 903-183 PCT/US
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application, and please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-14. (Canceled)

Claim 15. (Currently amended): Conveyor device for conveying substantially round products, ~~for example eggs~~, comprising a support track, along which the products can move in a conveying direction during use, and a first, substantially cylindrical engagement member, which extends transversely over the support track with respect to the conveying direction and is designed to be flexible at least at its circumference, in order to engage on the products on the support track, and can rotate about its axial axis in order to advance the products along the support track, wherein the support track, downstream of the first engagement member as seen in the conveying direction, has an elevated portion which is located at a distance from the first engagement member which is such that the latter engages on the products on the upward part of the elevated portion, wherein downstream of the first engagement member, as seen in the conveying direction, there is arranged a second substantially cylindrical engagement member, which extends transversely across the support track with respect to the conveying direction and is designed to be flexible at least at the circumference, in order to engage on the products on the support track, and can rotate about its axial axis in order to advance the products along the support track, which second engagement member can rotate in the same direction as the first engagement member, and wherein the second engagement member, as seen in the conveying direction, is located at a distance downstream of the elevated portion which is such that the second engagement member engages on the products on the downward section of the elevated portion.

Claim 16. (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Canceled)

Claim 18. (Previously presented): Conveyor device according to claim 15, in which the elevated portion is designed to be able to yield with the products.

Claim 19. (Previously presented): Conveyor device according to claim 15, in which the elevated portion is formed from a strip of flexible material, of which a front end and a rear end are fixed at a distance from one another which is such that the material between them bulges upwards.

Claim 20. (Currently amended): Conveyor device for conveying substantially round products, ~~for example eggs~~, comprising a support track, along which the products can move in a conveying direction during use, and a first, substantially cylindrical engagement member, which extends transversely over the support track with respect to the conveying direction and is designed to be flexible at least at its circumference, in order to engage on the products on the support track, and can rotate about its axial axis in order to advance the products along the support track, wherein the support track has a higher part, a transition piece, which adjoins the higher part downstream of the first engagement member, as seen in the conveying direction, and a lower part, which adjoins the transition piece, the first engagement member being arranged over the higher part of the support track, in the vicinity of the transition piece, and a second substantially cylindrical engagement member being provided, which extends transversely over the support track with respect to the conveying direction and is designed to be flexible at least at the circumference in order to engage on the products, and can rotate about its axial axis in order to advance the products along the support track, which second engagement member is arranged substantially at the transition piece in order to engage on the products which, during use are situated on the transition piece and a part of the lower part of the support track, wherein the first engagement member and the second engagement member are designed

as a brush with bristles for engaging on the product, which bristles of the first and second brushes partially engage in one another.

Claim 21. (Previously presented): Conveyor device according to claim 20, in which the transition piece is designed to be able to yield with the products.

Claim 22. (Currently amended): Conveyor device according to claim ~~46~~ 15, in which the first engagement member is designed to have a greater circumferential velocity than the second engagement member during use.

Claim 23. (Previously presented): Conveyor device according to claim 20, in which the first engagement member is designed to have a greater circumferential velocity than the second engagement member during use.

Claim 24. (Currently amended): Conveyor device according to claim ~~46~~ 15, in which the first engagement member has a larger diameter than the second engagement member.

Claim 25. (Previously presented): Conveyor device according to claim 20, in which the first engagement member has a larger diameter than the second engagement member.

Claim 26. (Currently amended): Conveyor device according to claim ~~46~~ 15, in which the first engagement member, during use, can rotate at a higher speed than the second engagement member.

Claim 27. (Previously presented): Conveyor device according to claim 20, in which the first engagement member, during use, can rotate at a higher speed than the second engagement member.

Claim 28. (Currently amended): Conveyor device for conveying substantially round products, ~~for example eggs~~, comprising a support track, along which the products can move in a conveying direction during use, and a first, substantially cylindrical engagement member, which extends transversely over the support track with respect to the conveying direction and is designed to be flexible at least at its circumference, in order to engage on the products on the support track, and can rotate about its axial axis in order to advance the products along the support track, wherein downstream of the first engagement member, as seen in the conveying direction, there is arranged a second substantially cylindrical engagement member, which extends transversely over the support track with respect to the conveying direction and is designed to be flexible at least in the circumference in order to engage on the products on the support track, and can rotate about its axial axis in order to advance the products along the support track, which second engagement member can rotate in the same direction as the first engagement member, the first engagement member being designed to have a higher circumferential velocity than the second engagement member during use, wherein the first engagement member and the second engagement member are designed as a brush with bristles for engaging on the product, which bristles of the first and second brushes partially engage in one another.

Claim 29. (Previously presented): Conveyor device according to claim 15, in which the first engagement member is designed as a brush with bristles for engaging on the product.

Claim 30. (Currently amended): Conveyor device according to claim ~~16~~ 15, in which the second engagement member is designed as a brush with bristles for engaging on the product.

Claim 31. (Previously presented): Conveyor device according to claim 20, in which the first engagement member is designed as a brush with bristles for engaging on the product.

Claim 32. (Previously presented): Conveyor device according to claim 20, in which the second engagement member is designed as a brush with bristles for engaging on the product.

Claim 33. (Previously presented): Conveyor device according to claim 28, in which the first engagement member is designed as a brush with bristles for engaging on the product.

Claim 34. (Previously presented): Conveyor device according to claim 28, in which the second engagement member is designed as a brush with bristles for engaging on the product.

Claim 35. (Currently amended): Conveyor device according to claim ~~46~~ 15, in which the first engagement member and the second engagement member are designed as a brush with bristles for engaging on the product, which bristles of the first and second brushes partially engage in one another.

Claim 36. (Canceled)

Claim 37. (Canceled)

Claim 38. (Currently amended): Sorting and packaging device for sorting and packaging substantially round products, ~~in particular eggs~~, comprising at least one conveyor device for conveying substantially round products, ~~for example eggs~~, comprising a support track, along which the products can move in a conveying direction during use, and a first, substantially cylindrical engagement member, which extends transversely over the support track with respect to the conveying direction and is designed to be flexible at least at its circumference, in order to engage on the products on the support track, and can rotate about its axial axis in order to advance the products along the support track, wherein the support track, downstream of the first engagement member as seen in the conveying direction, has an elevated portion which is located at a distance from the first engagement member which is such that the latter engages on

the products on the upward part of the elevated portion wherein which downstream of the first engagement member, as seen in the conveying direction, there is arranged a second substantially cylindrical engagement member, which extends transversely across the support track with respect to the conveying direction and is designed to be flexible at least at the circumference, in order to engage on the products on the support track, and can rotate about its axial axis in order to advance the products along the support track, which second engagement member can rotate in the same direction as the first engagement member, and wherein the second engagement member, as seen in the conveying direction, is located at a distance downstream of the elevated portion which is such that the second engagement member engages on the products on the downward section of the elevated portion.

Claim 39. (Previously presented): Sorting and packaging device according to claim 38, comprising a first conveyor for supplying products with a distance between them and a second conveyor for removing products with a distance between them, wherein the conveyor device is placed between the first and the second conveyor to convey the products from the first to the second conveyor.

Claim 40. (Previously presented): Sorting and packaging device according to claim 39, wherein the distance between the products on the first conveyor is greater than the distance between them on the second conveyor.

Claim 41. (Currently amended): Sorting and packaging device for sorting and packaging substantially round products, ~~in particular eggs~~, comprising at least one conveyor device for conveying substantially round products, ~~for example eggs~~, comprising a support track, along which the products can move in a conveying direction during use, and a first, substantially cylindrical engagement member, which extends transversely over the support track with respect to the conveying direction and is designed to be flexible at least at its circumference, in order to engage on the products on the support track, and can rotate about its axial axis in order to

advance the products along the support track, wherein the support track has a higher part, a transition piece, which adjoins the higher part downstream of the first engagement member, as seen in the conveying direction, and a lower part, which adjoins the transition piece, the first engagement member being arranged over the higher part of the support track, in the vicinity of the transition piece, and a second substantially cylindrical engagement member being provided, which extends transversely over the support track with respect to the conveying direction and is designed to be flexible at least at the circumference in order to engage on the products, and can rotate about its axial axis in order to advance the products along the support track, which second engagement member is arranged substantially at the transition piece in order to engage on the products which, during use are situated on the transition piece and a part of the lower part of the support track, wherein the first engagement member and the second engagement member are designed as a brush with bristles for engaging on the product, which bristles of the first and second brushes partially engage in one another.

Claim 42. (Previously presented): Sorting and packaging device according to claim 41, comprising a first conveyor for supplying products with a distance between them and a second conveyor for removing products with a distance between them, wherein the conveyor device is placed between the first and the second conveyor to convey the products from the first to the second conveyor.

Claim 43. (Previously presented): Sorting and packaging device according to claim 42, wherein the distance between the products on the first conveyor is greater than the distance between them on the second conveyor.

Claim 44. (Currently amended): Sorting and packaging device for sorting and packaging substantially round products, ~~in particular eggs~~, comprising at least one conveyor device for conveying substantially round products, ~~for example eggs~~, comprising a support track, along which the products can move in a conveying direction during use, and a first, substantially

cylindrical engagement member, which extends transversely over the support track with respect to the conveying direction and is designed to be flexible at least at its circumference, in order to engage on the products on the support track, and can rotate about its axial axis in order to advance the products along the support track, wherein downstream of the first engagement member, as seen in the conveying direction, there is arranged a second substantially cylindrical engagement member, which extends transversely over the support track with respect to the conveying direction and is designed to be flexible at least in the circumference in order to engage on the products on the support track, and can rotate about its axial axis in order to advance the products along the support track, which second engagement member can rotate in the same direction as the first engagement member, the first engagement member being designed to have a higher circumferential velocity than the second engagement member during use, wherein the first engagement member and the second engagement member are designed as a brush with bristles for engaging on the product, which bristles of the first and second brushes partially engage in one another.

Claim 45. (Previously presented): Sorting and packaging device according to claim 44, comprising a first conveyor for supplying products with a distance between them and a second conveyor for removing products with a distance between them, wherein the conveyor device is placed between the first and the second conveyor to convey the products from the first to the second conveyor.

Claim 46. (Previously presented): Sorting and packaging device according to claim 45, wherein the distance between the products on the first conveyor is greater than the distance between them on the second conveyor.